New High School Models Will Prepare Students For Health Science Careers

October 6, 2006

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm and the Michigan Department of Education today announced grants that will create six new "Middle College" high schools in Michigan that will help prevent students from dropping out and prepare them for expanding employment opportunities in the health care field.

Granholm sought and won the new grant program in the state School Aid budget as the first step in creating a new generation of high schools in Michigan aimed at preparing students for the challenges of the 21st Century economy.

The grants, totaling $2 million, will be used to forge partnerships involving school districts, state universities and community colleges, and hospitals and medical centers. The new schools are expected to open their doors to students in September of next year.

"These new high schools will use the new 3 Rs – Rigor, Relationships, and Relevance – to prepare our young people for the kind of jobs that exist today and will exist tomorrow in Michigan" Granholm said. "Our hospitals are eager to help create these new high schools because they have ever-increasing demand for skilled employees."

(more)

The Middle College High School with focus on health science occupations is to provide students with new learning experiences and opportunities related to health sciences, while earning a high school diploma and a certificate or degree from a community college or state public university. Students who seek to continue their education to the baccalaureate level or advanced degrees will be able to earn transferable college credits.

"Making a high school education relevant for students is critical," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. "Middle College High Schools give students a real-world learning experience that will make them more marketable after graduation. These programs also build valuable partnerships between high schools, higher education, and the business sector.

"We envision health science occupations as the first wave of these new Middle College High Schools," he added. "We will be able to adapt these health science models to other fields as future technology, manufacturing, and service sectors develop."

Michigan currently has two Middle Colleges – Mott Middle College in Flint and Washtenaw Technical Middle College in Ann Arbor – that have established programs that provide alternative paths to high school education and connecting students to a community college experience.

These grants will develop specific Middle College high school programs targeted to high-demand careers in the health science field. They also will be creating academic and career programs that provide real relevance to students and keep them engaged in learning and in school, according to Flanagan.

"Students will complete high school with marketable skills and give them a real sense of what college and careers are all about," Flanagan said.

The following are the recipients of the competitive grants, along with their program partners:

Districts Receiving Funding	Partners	Grant Amount
Clare-Gladwin RESD	Beaverton Rural Schools, Clare Public Schools, Farwell Area Schools, Gladwin Community Schools, and Harrison Community Schools; Mid Michigan Community College; Mid Michigan Health	$320,049
Delta-Schoolcraft ISD	Eight constituent school districts; Bay College; OSF St. Francis Hospital	$185,223
Detroit Public School	Detroit Medical Center; Wayne County Community College District	$400,000
Genesee ISD	21 constituent school districts; U of M-Flint, Baker College of Flint, Kettering University, Mott Community College; Greater Flint Health Coalition	$400,000
Washtenaw ISD	Ypsilanti, Lincoln, Willow Run, and Whitmore Lake School Districts; Eastern Michigan University; St. Joseph Mercy Health System, U of M Health System	$294,728
Wayne RESA	Dearborn Public Schools; Henry Ford Health System; Henry Ford Community College	$400,000

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